

RHIB & CRAFT LAUNCH OPERATIONS

BASIC RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR ALL PERSONNEL

This guide covers the main hazards you will face during RHIB and craft launch and recovery. **Read it. Know it. Follow it.**

If you are unsure about anything, **ask your Coxswain or Team Leader.**

#	HAZARD	WHAT CAN HAPPEN	WHAT YOU DO
1	Swinging craft	The RHIB swings on the crane or davit and hits you. Crush injury, broken bones, fatal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Stay clear of the swing zone ✓ Wear your helmet during all crane operations ✓ Tag lines must be used to control the swing
2	Man overboard	You fall in the water during launch or recovery. Drowning, hypothermia, propeller injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lifejacket on before you go near the deck edge ✓ Know the MOB procedure and where the rescue kit is ✓ Kill cord on the coxswain at all times
3	Crane / davit overload	Too much weight on the crane. It fails, the craft drops. Crush injuries, structural damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Never load the craft before it is craned ✓ Safe working load is marked – know it ✓ Report if anything looks or sounds wrong during lifting
4	Rough sea launch	Launching in bad conditions. Craft damage, capsize, personnel injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launch only if Master and Coxswain agree it is safe ✓ Conditions can change fast – watch and report ✓ If it does not feel safe, say so
5	RHIB overloading	Too many people or too much kit. Low freeboard, swamping, capsize.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Coxswain decides the load – do not argue ✓ Multiple trips are safer than overloading ✓ Reduce capacity in higher sea states
6	Slips and falls on deck	Wet deck near the launch area. Falls, broken bones, overboard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Non-slip footwear – always ✓ Deck cleared of loose gear before operations ✓ Adequate lighting at the launch point
7	Loading equipment	Moving heavy gear at the deck edge. Items fall, you overbalance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pass equipment hand to hand or tag line ✓ Wear lifejacket and helmet during loading ✓ Clear the area below during overhead lifts
8	Propeller injury	Someone in the water near the propeller. Severe cuts, amputation, fatal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Engines to neutral on any MOB alarm ✓ Nobody near the stern when engines are running ✓ Kill cord worn by coxswain at all times

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9	Craft capsize	Wave, overload, or operator error flips the RHIB. Drowning, trapped under craft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lifejackets on all occupants ✓ Coxswain trained in capsize prevention ✓ Capsize drill must be taken seriously in training
10	Engine failure	Engine stops mid-operation. Drifting, collision risk, stranded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pre-use engine checks before every operation ✓ VHF communications maintained with mothership ✓ Recovery plan in place for disabled craft
11	Machinery – davit/winch	Fingers caught in winch drums, wire ropes, moving parts. Crush, amputation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Only trained personnel operate the davit ✓ Keep clear of moving parts – marked zones ✓ Emergency stop must be accessible
12	Noise exposure	RHIB engines at close range for extended periods. Hearing damage over time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Hearing protection for extended operations ✓ Coxswain rotation to limit exposure ✓ Report if you experience ringing in your ears

🛑 STOP WORK – YOU HAVE THE RIGHT

If you believe a launch or recovery operation is not safe, you must stop and speak up.

No one will be punished for raising a safety concern.

Full risk assessment: SM/HSE/RA/005 – RHIB & Craft Launch Operations v1.0

Related SOPs: RHIB Launch & Recovery SOP (region-specific) | SM/HSE/PRO/001 – Hazard ID & Risk Assessment

Questions? Contact the Group Compliance Director or QHSE Manager

YOUR WATCH. OUR STANDARD.

Assess. Report. Deliver.